

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-28 (canceled)

29. (currently amended): A DC/AC inverter, comprising:

a plurality of power switches for converting a DC signal to an AC signal[[]] ;

a step-up transformer receiving said AC signal and generating a stepped-up AC signal;

and

an inverter controller adapted to generate a plurality of signals to drive said plurality of power switches, said controller comprising at least one input pin configured to receive ~~two or more~~ at least two independent input signals, each said input signal supporting an associated function of said controller during operation of said controller.

30. (previously presented): A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, further comprising one or more cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL), said lamps receiving said stepped-up AC signal.

31. (previously presented): A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein said power switches arranged to form an inverter circuit selected from a push-pull, half bridge and full-bridge inverter topologies.

32. (previously presented): A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein said input pin configured to receive a first signal representing a dim voltage, said first signal having a first voltage range; and a second signal representing a voltage feedback signal indicative of voltage supplied to a load, said second signal having a second voltage range.

33. (previously presented): A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a multiplexer circuit to direct one of said input signals to a first circuit to support a first said function of said controller, and to direct another of said input signals to a second circuit to support a second said function of said controller.

34. (previously presented): A DC/AC inverter as claimed in claim 29, wherein one of said input signals is present in a first time period and another of said input signals is present in a second time period.